



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

April 2014 Newsletter

SCSC Meetings

The State Charter Schools Commission last met on March 26, 2014. For the meeting minutes, click [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2014 Commission meeting calendar is available [here](#).

Charter School Program Grants

Congratulations to the following state charter schools for receiving U.S. Department of Education Charter School Program grants!

Utopian Academy for the Arts: Planning and Implementation Grant - \$650,000

Georgia Cyber Academy: Planning and Implementation Grant – \$525,000

Pataula Charter Academy: Expansion Grant - \$500,000

Coweta Charter Academy: Expansion Grant - \$500,000

Fulton Leadership Academy: Expansion Grant - \$500,000

Training Opportunities

Please note new training sessions available to state charters below.

Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems (TKES and LKES)

Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta, Georgia

March 26-28, 2014 (TKES) and April 14-15, 2014 (LKES)

This training session is for **state charter leaders and governing board members**. All state charters are required to implement the Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES) and the Leader Keys Effectiveness System (LKES) in the 2014-15 school year, GaDOE trainers will review the evaluation system and participants will become credentialed to conduct evaluations. At a minimum, two individuals per school should be credentialed to conduct TKES evaluations and two individuals per school should be credentialed to conduct LKES evaluations. School leaders should evaluate teachers and governing board members should evaluate the school leader. An overview is available [here](#). **To attend the TKES or LKES training sessions, register [here](#).**

“How to be an LEA”

Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway, Atlanta, Georgia

May 8-9, 2014

The "How to be a Local Education Agency" training session is for **state charter leaders and relevant personnel**. In addition to operating as independent schools, state charters also serve as independent local education agencies (LEAs). Throughout this two-day training session, state officials will speak on key federal and state programs to assist state charters in their responsibilities as LEAs. Topics will include: Federal Title Programs; State and Federal Funding; the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI); Data Access, Usage and Collection; School Safety and Facilities; among others. The full agenda is available [here](#). The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses for attendees in accordance with state guidelines. Attendees who require overnight accommodations must reserve a room by April 17 to secure the group rate of \$133 per night. The reservation website is available [here](#). **To attend this training session, email lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov.**

Strategic Planning Sessions

Carl Vinson Institute of Government and Georgia Charter Schools Association

Summer 2014

The SCSC will offer two strategic planning opportunities to state charter school boards and staffs in the summer of 2014 to assist schools in preparations for the 2014-15 school year. Through this opportunity, experts from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) and the Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) will work directly with the state charter school to conduct an in-depth analysis of the school's needs. The CVIOG experts will help the school develop an executable strategic plan. The GCSA experts will focus on financial controls and budget review. A full overview of the opportunity is available [here](#). The cost of the services will be fully covered by the SCSC. **State charters that wish to opt into one or both opportunities should contact Lauren Holcomb at lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2822 by May 1, 2014.**

A comprehensive list of 2013-2014 SCSC training opportunities is available [here](#). Please note this is a draft list to assist schools in planning and dates/topics are subject to change. For questions about training opportunities, please contact Lauren Wright Holcomb, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, at lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2822.

State Board of Education News

In its April meeting, The State Board of Education adopted a rule establishing that all school systems and charter schools will implement the Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES) and Leader Keys Effectiveness System (LKES) by the 2014-2015 school year.

State Board Rule 160-5-1 .37 meets the requirements of House Bill 244, passed in 2013, which requires the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to establish a teacher and leader evaluation process that is fully implemented by 2014-15. The rule establishes that:

- By the 2014-15 school year, each school system and charter school shall implement an evaluation system developed by the GaDOE for teachers, assistant principals, and principals that uses measures of student achievement and student growth.
- School systems shall base decisions regarding retention, promotion, compensation, dismissals, and other staffing decisions, including transfers, placements, and preferences in the event of reductions of force, primarily on the results of the new evaluation system.
- The newly developed evaluation system shall give every teacher of record, assistant principal, or principal one of four ratings levels.

The SCSC has created a [guidance document](#) to assist state charters in implementing TKES and LKES. Please refer to this guidance document and contact Lauren Holcomb with questions or concerns, lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2822.

Reporting Deadlines

Please note the upcoming reporting items due in **April and May**:

Title Programs - Title I Significant Growth or Expansion, Title I Part A Budget Amendments

Data Collection - Teacher Class, Special Education - Postsecondary Outcomes

A full list of FY14 reporting items and associated deadlines can be found [here](#). For questions about reporting deadlines, please contact Terence Washington, SCSC Accountability Manager, at terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2837.

2013 CCRPI Reports and Assessment Participation

As assessment season begins, GaDOE would like to remind schools how assessment participation rates will impact the CCRPI reports. As always, it is the expectation that schools test 100% of students in assessed subjects and grades. Please remember that the requirement for assessment participation for the CCRPI is 95%. For the 2014 CCRPI, non-participation will impact points earned on the Content Mastery component of Achievement.

It is also critical that schools maintain lists of students who are not assessed which include the appropriate corresponding non-participation reasons, as this information will be needed to complete the Non-Participation activity. The non-participation reasons are *Medical Emergency* (requires written documentation), *Illness*, *Other*, *Unknown*, and *EOCT Course Not Taken for Core Credit/EOCT Administered Previously*. The previously used non-participation reason of *EOCT Course Not Completed* will no longer be available in the Non-Participation activity. Instead, students who do not have the opportunity to learn the entire content of the course will be coded in Student Record as *Content Completer = No*.

The accountability team will prepare a webinar with further explanation and appropriate use of the Student Record data element Content Completer. Schools will receive an email when the webinar is available on the Accountability webpage.

For questions or concerns, please contact Martha Reichrath, Ph.D., GaDOE Deputy State Superintendent in the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability at (404) 656-2804 or mreichrath@doe.k12.ga.us

April is Voter Registration Month

Secretary of State Brian Kemp is reminding schools that April is Voter Registration Month and encouraging school leaders to provide voter registration information to students.

County contacts and voter registration supplies can be found on the Secretary of State's Elections Division website in the Election Connection section at http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/election_connection. Additionally, students can access the iVote website for materials and information specific to their voting needs at http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/students_corner.

Using the new Online Voter Registration System (OLVR), anyone with a valid Georgia driver's license can register to vote online at <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/beginRegistration.do>. Students can use this system at the age of 17

1/2 years. Georgians can also use the new My Voter Page mobile app for their phone or tablet. The app provides individualized sample ballots, lists of elected officials, the ability to track an absentee ballot and much more. Search for “GA Votes” on the Android or Apple app stores and downloads the app for free.

Funding and Professional Development Opportunities

SCSC staff have identified the following grant and professional development opportunities that may be of benefit to state charters. A full list of SCSC-identified grant opportunities is available [here](#).

Georgia Race to the Top Grant – Summer Academy and Student Learning Objectives **Georgia Department of Education**

The GaDOE is making grants available to support local school districts and RESAs in implementing the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and state-wide teacher and leader evaluation systems. These are **guaranteed grants for all state charters to send teachers to the GaDOE Mathematics and English language arts summer institutes/academies and to support the development of student learning objectives (SLOs)**, a core component of the new teacher and leader evaluation system which must be implemented next year.

Each district and RESA will receive a reimbursement-based grant to send teams of teachers to the Mathematics and English language arts summer institutes/academies. Additionally, each district and RESA will receive a grant to support the development of student learning objectives (SLOs) to ensure every teacher has one student growth measure in 2014-2015 as a part of the evaluation system. The grant size recommended for each school is available [here](#).

Each district must complete a budget in the LEA Consolidated Application **by May 1, 2014** in order to access funds.

GaDOE will hold a conference call **exclusively for state charters** on Wednesday, April 16, 24, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. to provide an overview of the grants and to address questions.

Conference call number: (866) 675-0488

Access code: 5244681894

Contact: Clara J. Keith, Associate Superintendent for Race to the Top Implementation at ckeith@doe.k12.ga.us.

12th Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference **Georgia Department of Education**

The 12th Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference will be held June 17-20, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriott Atlanta Airport Gateway located at 2020 Convention Center Concourse, Atlanta, GA 30337 (800) 228-9290. The Spring Hill Suites adjacent to the property will be the conference’s overflow hotel. **More information on hotel registration will be sent out in early March 2014.**

The schedule for the 2014 conference is different than previous years. The Homeless Liaisons and/or Title I Directors that serve as their district’s liaison should plan to attend the Homeless Liaison Workshop portion of the conference which will take place on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, for the entire day. Beginning on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, the conference will have a half-day training for the New Title I Directors Workshop in the morning, and in the afternoon, GaDOE will begin the 12th Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference. On Thursday morning June 19, 2014, right after the continental breakfast, GaDOE will present the awards to the Title I Reward Districts followed by breakout sessions. On Friday, June 20, 2014, breakout sessions and the conference will end at noon. In addition, Title III, Part A— Language Instruction for

LEP and Immigrant Coordinator Programs will be providing several sessions at the conference that are normally presented to districts in the fall by Title III.

This year will be focus primarily on federal programs compliance and technical assistance. A suggestion from districts was not to schedule the Meet Your Title I Education Program Specialist session at the end of the day. GaDOE will schedule these Specialist sessions for each district during the regular conference presentation time.

Contact: Margo DeLaune, GaDOE Title Programs Director, (404) 657-1796 or mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us

##